Literary Notes III

Entries 2483–2641
2483 (f15) HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
"KING HENRY IV." (PART I.)

But what of Prince Hal? Do we care nothing for him? As King's son, nothing; the chronicle is as dull with him as it would be without him. For he does not belong to the chronicle at all, but to that other part of the play, the rich and glowing world of Falstaff, Bardolph, Poins, Peto, Gadshill, and Mistress Quickly. Shakespeare hardly brought the two worlds, the world of the Boar's Head and of the Court, into contact. They remain apart; and, to tell the truth, we suffer the scene of the chronicle for the sake of the scenes of the comedy. With a passing thought for a very fine, human, and individual performance of Hotspur by Mr. Basil Gill, we are content to forget the history; we should never be content to forget the Falstaff round which hum those merry, busy, scandalous scenes in taverns and midnight woods.

2484 MR. WILLIAM MORRIS ON THE PRINTING OF BOOKS.

Mr. W. Morris delivered a lecture at the New Gallery on Thursday evening "On the Printing of Books." The lecture, which was the first of a series of five to be given by different lecturers under the auspices of the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society, was delivered in the North Gallery, which was completely filled by an appreciative audience. The chair was taken by Mr. Cobden Saunderson.

Mr. W. Morris, who was received with cheers, demonstrated by means of lantern slides the various stages which printing had passed through from the time of its invention until the third decade of the 16th century. The first slide exhibited depicted a manuscript Bible written probably about the year 1290, which was practically the form of all the subsequent books he would have to show them. The art of printing on its institution was a Teutonic art, he might even say a German art. The first books were printed actually in Germany at Mainz, on the Rhine. The German printers spread themselves all through Europe and recruited their ranks with a certain number of Frenchmen, who were educated in their school, and together they were, for the first decade at any rate, the printers of all the books printed in Europe. The next slide exhibited showed a page from the first book printed in a book form with movable type. It was a Bible printed by Gutenberg at Mainz about 1453, the year of the taking of Constantinople by the Turks. There was thus a coincidence in the dates of those two events which had so great